

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12-22, 25-35, 38 and 39 were pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 12, 14-22, 25, 27-35, 38 and 39 are rejected. Claims 13 and 26 are subject to objection, but indicated to be allowable. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are currently amended. Claims 13, 26 and 39 are cancelled.

Claims 27-35, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being based on non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the rejection is based on a statement in the specification that the computer-readable medium could be a carrier wave. The specification has been amended to remove the reference to the computer-readable medium as possibly being a carrier wave. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

Claims 1-9, 12, 14-22, 25, 27-35 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on US 6,650,641 (Albert) in view of US 7,133,400 (Henderson). The Examiner concedes that Albert fails to teach performing at least two filter operations on the same data field in the data packet header in response to a single instruction, but asserts that Henderson describes that feature in Figures 10 and 19, and at column 11, lines 10-25 and column 21, lines 5-14. The Examiner further concedes that the combination of Albert in view of Henderson and the other prior art of record fails to teach retrieving the filter result based on the instruction by way of radix search. In order to move this application to allowance, independent claims 1, 14 and 27 have been amended to recite that limitation. The dependent claims are allowable for the same reason as their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9, 12, 14-22, 25, 27-35 and 38 is therefore requested.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Should there

remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

/Holmes W. Anderson/
Holmes W. Anderson, Reg. No. 37272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-4001

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